

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 828

By Overbey

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Elizabeth Anderson
Prather of Blount County.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Elizabeth Anderson Prather; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Prather was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for her fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, a lifelong resident of Blount County, Elizabeth Prather was a respected and admired member of her community; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Prather was an avid learner and diligent student who graduated from Friendsville High School before earning her bachelor's degree from the University of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, believing deeply in her mission of educating, empowering, and encouraging all students to achieve their maximum potential, Elizabeth Prather tirelessly taught Adult Basic Education and also diligently served as a Blount County elementary school teacher for over forty years; and

WHEREAS, in addition to her illustrious career in education, Ms. Prather was called to reach out with compassion to people whom life had treated unkindly, choosing such occupations as a child protective services worker with the Tennessee Department of Human Services, a case worker and director of the Office of Aging's Project LIVE (Living Independently through Volunteer Efforts), and a director of the food stamp program for Knox County; and

WHEREAS, an important and active member of her community, Ms. Prather lent her time and tremendous talents to a number of organizations, including serving as a member of the

National Society of Daughters of Union Veterans 1861-1865, the secretary of Tennessee's Welfare Retirees Association, and a member of the First Families of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, one of the longest serving volunteers in the history of Blount Memorial Hospital (BMH), Ms. Prather graciously served Blount County's disadvantaged citizens at the dental clinic for the under-privileged and offered her gentle and compassionate spirit as a BMH Auxiliary Volunteer for 32 years; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to honors and accolades, Elizabeth Prather received the Blount Memorial Hospital Distinguished Service Award, the Distinguished Member Award from the United Methodist Men's Group, and the Methodist Women's School Teaching Award-Rotary International, and she was honored during the National Volunteer Week when President Nixon signed an executive order establishing the annual celebration of volunteering; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Prather was an active and devout member of the First United Methodist Church of Maryville, where she faithfully served her Lord as a Sunday school teacher; and

WHEREAS, Elizabeth Prather was also deeply devoted to her family, and she always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Prather leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all her chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Elizabeth Anderson Prather, reflecting fondly upon her impeccable character and her stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Ms. Prather.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.